

to Congress until 2 years after the Strategic Petroleum Reserve was established. He took credit for it, but he was not even in Congress when it happened.

Two days ago in the Presidential debates, GORE claimed that he was at a Florida high school when a student had to stand in class because the classroom was so overcrowded.

The principal of that school laughed when he heard the claim and said, "We have never allowed a student to stand in the back of a classroom or to stand in a classroom." He also added that the classroom in question, a science lab, has about \$150,000 this year alone in new equipment.

Why does he have to keep making these things up? What drives him to take credit for so many things that he clearly had nothing to do with?

Mr. GORE has a problem with the truth. We need leadership that knows the difference between self-serving fantasy and reality. Our country is hungry for integrity.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Members are reminded not to make personal references to the Vice President.

#### ASKING MEMBERS TO SUPPORT THE AMBER ALERT PROGRAM

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON) introduced a resolution that recognizes the importance of a community initiative, a successful and effective way to combat child abduction called the Amber Alert Plan.

The Amber Alert is named after Amber Hagerman, a 9-year-old girl who was tragically abducted and murdered in Arlington, Texas, in 1996. The tragedy of Amber's case was felt throughout north Texas, and it led to a search for new and innovative community responses to help law enforcement officials find missing children.

The Amber Alert is a partnership between broadcasters and law enforcement agencies. When law enforcement determines a child is missing, they activate the Amber Alert, by notifying area-participating radio stations. The stations agree to interrupt their programming and broadcast an emergency report, much like an emergency broadcast system. Their report gives details, like the description of a child or any cars involved. TV stations would broadcast Amber Alert crawlers across the front of their screen, which would resemble severe weather warnings.

I unveiled the Amber Alert in my district. Please join me and the gentlewoman from New Mexico in our efforts to recover missing children and curb

abductions as a cosponsor of the bill. The health and safety of our children is in Members' hands.

#### THE DEMOCRAT EDUCATION AGENDA

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the minority leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), delivered an important address outlining the education agenda our party will pursue next year under a Democratic Congress. This agenda reflects our commitments to take bold action to make public schools strong and effective and to add, not replace, the efforts being made at the local level.

I applaud the minority leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), for his efforts that began more than a year ago in a series of meetings at the Madison Building over dinners and good conversations.

Here is what we as Democrats propose on education: establish a major new partnership with States to lower class size and assure that every child has a qualified teacher; offer new investments while holding schools accountable for the results; make quality preschool available to every child; and provide direct grants and tax breaks to upgrade and modernize school facilities.

We have set down our marker. I look forward to working with the then Speaker, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), in a Democratic House to move it forward.

#### PASS THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT BEFORE THE END OF SESSION

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the women of America want the other body to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act. This landmark legislation, which the House has reauthorized, has saved lives and rescued countless women from the vicious cycle of family violence.

From 1993, when the act was enacted, to 1997, the rate of intimate partner violence fell and the number of female victims of intimate violence dropped. American women have VAWA, the Violence Against Women Act, to thank for these gains.

But there is so much more that needs to be done. In 1998, three out of four victims of intimate-partner homicide were women. The number of women killed by an intimate partner increased 8 percent between 1997 and 1998. Women need VAWA so they can protect themselves and their children from domestic violence.

The Violence Against Women Act saves lives. I urge our colleagues in the other body, pass VAWA before the end of this session.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members should avoid urging action by the other body.

#### THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT MUST BE REAUTHORIZED NOW

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. It is just unthinkable that we should leave Washington and end this session without reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act.

Last week, by a powerful 415 to 3, this body overwhelmingly affirmed our responsibility to addressing and protecting the needs of all victims of domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault. Every 15 seconds someone in our country is battered. Every day, four women die in this country as a result of domestic violence.

Every person, woman, man, or child, should feel safe at home and in their neighborhoods. We must ensure that all victims, including immigrant women, are able to report and flee from domestic violence without threats of persecution or deportation.

We have the opportunity in these remaining days to pass VAWA. We should do it now.

#### TIME FOR CONGRESS TO PASS VAWA

(Ms. CARSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I will follow the Speaker's instructions in terms of not admonishing any other entity of the United States Congress. I would simply rise today to say that we need to have the Violence Against Women Act passed by the Congress and sent to the President for his signature.

Last Wednesday this House unanimously passed VAWA by a vote of 415 to 3. We must urge anyone else who can do that to do that.

VAWA expired on September 30. On September 30, the light went out on justice across this country on behalf of all of the women and children who are victims of violence or who are potential victims, including immigrant women.

Without this critical funding, programs serving women and their children will cease to exist. This is not a political game. It is the lives and well-being of women and children across